

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 11-23, and 26-45 were pending in the application. Claims 15 and 22 have been cancelled. Claims 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, and 26-28 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 7-8, 11-14, 16-21, 23, and 26-45 are now pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 11-14, 23, and 26-45 have been allowed.

Claims 19, 20, and 22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates Examiner's consideration of these claims.

35 U.S.C. 102 Rejections

Claims 15-18 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Traa (U.S. Patent No. 6,222,660).

Claim 15 has been cancelled, therefore the rejection with respect to claim 15 is now believed moot.

Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 22. Applicant submits that the amended independent claim recites a combination of features deemed allowable by the Examiner. In accordance, claim 16 is believed to patentably distinguish over Traa.

Claim 17, 18, and 21 are dependent upon claim 16, and are therefore believed to patentably distinguish over Traa for at least the same reason given above.

Furthermore, claims 19 and 20 have been amended to incorporate the features of independent claim 16. Applicant submits that each of the amended claims 19 and 20 recites a combination of features deemed allowable by the Examiner. In accordance, claims 19 and 20 are believed to patentably distinguish over Traa.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If a phone interview would speed allowance of any pending claims, such is requested at the Examiner's convenience.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5957-16203/MJL.

Respectfully submitted,



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